

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P211 - WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US2006/005455	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/02/2006	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 22/02/2005
Applicant IGT		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 3g

☒ as suggested by the applicant
☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/005455

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G07F17/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G07F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 482 459 A (WMS GAMING INC) 1 December 2004 (2004-12-01) abstract paragraphs [0002], [0006], [0007], [0016] - [0021], [0037], [0043], [0047], [0049] paragraphs [0066], [0067]	1-54
X	US 2003/190944 A1 (MANFREDI VINCENT S ET AL) 9 October 2003 (2003-10-09) paragraphs [0007], [0009], [0024], [0027]	1-54
X	WO 2004/056432 A (TECHLINK INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED; XIDOS, JOHN; MACKENZIE,) 8 July 2004 (2004-07-08) abstract page 1, line 5 - line 7 page 2, line 25 - line 31	1-54

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 June 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/06/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Verhoef, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/005455

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1482459	A	01-12-2004	AU 2004202318 A1	16-12-2004
			CA 2468438 A1	28-11-2004
US 2003190944	A1	09-10-2003	AU 2003233486 A1	20-10-2003
			CA 2444172 A1	03-10-2003
			GB 2400224 A	06-10-2004
			WO 03084623 A1	16-10-2003
			ZA 200307671 A	01-10-2004
WO 2004056432	A	08-07-2004	AU 2003294527 A1	14-07-2004
			CA 2510453 A1	08-07-2004
			EP 1573684 A2	14-09-2005
			MX PA05006498 A	23-11-2005
			US 2004121841 A1	24-06-2004
			US 2005064938 A1	24-03-2005

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005455

International filing date (day/month/year)
14.02.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.02.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. G07F1732

Applicant
IGT

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P. B. 5818 Patentlaan
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Verhoef, P

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4235



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005455

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005455

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-54
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-54
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-54
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Available state of the art

The following documents, D1, D2 and D3, may be referred to in this communication;
the notation below will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

- D1: EP-A-1 482 459 (WMS GAMING INC) 1 December 2004 (2004-12-01)
D2: US 2003/190944 A1 (MANFREDI VINCENT S ET AL) 9 October 2003 (2003-10-09)
D3: WO 2004/056432 A (TECHLINK INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED; XIDOS,
JOHN; MACKENZIE,) 8 July 2004 (2004-07-08)

2. Inventive step – Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the
subject matter of claims 1 - 54 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of
Article 33(3) PCT.

- 2.1 The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject matter of
claim 1, and discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A gaming machine (please cf. §41 - §52 and figure 2) comprising a controller (implicit,
but see also §20, §65), an input mechanism for inputting cash (implicit, but see also
§43), an output mechanism for outputting the cash (implicit, but see also §7), a
memory for storing software for generating a harm minimization interface (please cf.
§37, '... , harm minimization configuration, ... , may reside directly on memory
devices, within the gaming machine.'). a first display device for displaying the harm
minimization interface (please cf. §37, '...the feature options may also be executed by
the servers, and displayed on the gaming machine. Therefore, the gaming machine
has a display for displaying such information. The fact that the feature defines 'a first
display' implies that more than one display is available at the gaming machine, this is
however also known from document D1, see for instance §6, disclosing '...more than

one display may be provided on the gaming machine.').

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known disclosure in that:

- the stored software has instructions to help the player to adhere to one or more game limits.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as:

"how to limit the chance that a player does not exceed a gaming limit".

This problem is considered to be non-technical. In **T0641/00 (OJ EPO, 2003, 352)** the board concluded that "...where a feature cannot be considered as contributing to the solution of any technical problem by providing a technical effect it has no significance for the purpose of assessing inventive step." (emphasis added).

Therefore, the subject matter of independent claim 1 is not inventive in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

- 2.2 Even, were it conceded that the problem is technical, then still the solution was known in the art, see for instance document D2, §24. The person skilled in the art would program the device of document D1 accordingly, and would still arrive at the subject matter of independent claim 1, without having to exercise any inventive skills.
- 2.3 The subject matter of the other independent claim, method claim 38, is similar to the matter defined by claim 1 and differs only with respect to the category of the claim. In relation to the subject matter of independent claim 38, the argumentation presented above (§2.1 - 2.2 supra) will be applied per analogiam.

In consequence, also the subject matter of independent claim 38 is obvious in the light of document D1 and D2 so that the patentability requirement of inventive step is not met as is required by the Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT.

- 2.4 The dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, because their definition comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by the persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. They present no surprising or unexpected effect to the person skilled in the art, since the known devices are being employed in a conventional manner. Consequently, the subject matter of these dependent claims also lack an inventive step (see documents D1 - D3 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report).